

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Gary R. Dausey, 58, of Tomah, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 188 months in prison without parole for possessing child pornography. Dausey pleaded guilty to this charge on February 16, 2007.

Dausey's sentence was increased because he had two prior convictions for crimes involving children, one in which the child was eight years old. His sentence was also increased because he possessed more than 600 images; he used a computer for the possession of the images; and because the images he possessed involved prepubescent children and portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct.

Judge Shabaz read from a victim statement of a parent of one of the children portrayed in the images which said, "I pray that anyone investigating, prosecuting, or judging this case never has to hear from a child close to him or her, that someone has sexually assaulted him or her. It leaves a knot in your stomach and a hole in your heart that can never be fixed, anyone who says they understand how you feel, and has never had a child close to them sexually assaulted, can't even imagine until it happens to you,

you have no idea. I don't know if a thousand years would make me feel like justice has been served."

Another parent of a child shown in the images stated through a victim statement that, "[a]ll those who trade these images and thereby create the market for lurid and violent depictions of children are participants in the exploitation of my daughter. Each traded picture that placed a value on inventiveness, novelty, or cruelty played a role in egging on the abuser to even more vile acts. Everyone who participates in this evil exchange, regardless of whether they directly abused children themselves, reveled in the images of suffering, or persuaded others to abuse children on their behalf (to provide images of the abuse) has a responsibility for the effects."

Judge Shabaz stated that based on his history Dausey would always be a danger to children in the community. He therefore sentenced him to the top of the federal sentencing guideline range. Additionally, when released from prison, Dausey will spend the rest of his life on supervised release.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The charges against Dausey were the result of an investigation conducted by the

Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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